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Fulbright Suggests a Formula For Mideast Refugee Solution

**Proposes Israelis Repatriate
Some and the Arabs Resettle
Others With Compensation**

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Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 15—Senator J. W. Fulbright suggested today a possible solution to the problem of Arab refugees as a first step toward ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Reporting to the Senate on his six-and-a-half-day visit to the Middle East last month, the Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, offered this formula:

"Perhaps the Israelis could agree to repatriation or compensation as the United Nations has recommended, with the understanding that the numbers who might accept repatriation would be of manageable size over a period of years.

"Perhaps the Arabs could indicate a willingness to help resettle those who might decide against repatriation, if reasonable compensation is agreed upon."

There are now about 1,000,000 Arab refugees from Israeli territory living largely on United Nations relief in Jordan, the Syrian and Gaza areas of the United Arab Republic and Lebanon.

Total of Refugees Mounts

During the eleven years since the Arab-Israeli war the number of refugees has gradually increased by excess of births over deaths.

The Arabs have resisted resettlement and insisted that every refugee has a right to return to his home in Israel or to receive compensation. The Israelis, while agreeing to compensation, have rejected repatriation to Israel of any except individual hardship cases on the ground that a large Arab influx would threaten Israel's security.

Senator Fulbright called the Arab-Israeli conflict "the most all-pervasive situation" influencing United States foreign policy in the Middle East. The present state of the conflict, he said, is "crucial."

Noting that leaders on both sides were "considerably more rational" in private than in public pronouncements, the Senator speculated whether a formula to "move the problem off dead center," might not be worked out in "quiet, off-the-record conversations."

If states within the area could make no progress, he proposed enlisting assistance from "neutral, nonpolitical" social scientists, economists, retired diplomats and educators.

Senator Fulbright made what appeared to be a personal appeal to President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic and Premier David Ben-Gurion of Israel, "both able, dedicated men," whom he met during his tour. He declared he believed that "each of these men has the ability to lead his own people, as well as



The New York Times (by George James)
 Senator J. W. Fulbright

those qualities which enable true statesmen, by reason, to overcome irrational emotion."

Diplomatic analysts said that the weakness in Senator Fulbright's proposal was that it assumed a desire for peaceful settlement on both sides. While the Israelis have expressed such a desire, the Arabs still insist that they intend to destroy Israel.

Senator Fulbright said that the Arabs should "reconsider the view that refugees are a political asset to be used against Israel and an economic liability in Arab lands."

"The Arabs must realize that to seem to make refugees serve a political purpose will in time become counter-productive," he declared.

He recommended "the start now being made in training some of the younger generation in trades and handicrafts."

The Israelis should at the same time realize, he said, that the existence of refugees from Palestine appealed to humanitarian instincts "just as did the Jewish refugees from Hitler."

The longer this problem is left unsolved, he added, the more likely it is that Israel will be held responsible for the problem.

Looking beyond the refugee problem, Senator Fulbright asserted that peaceful economic and political development in the Middle East required acceptance by the Arab states that the world "could not stand idly aside" if they tried to drive the Israelis into the sea and acceptance by Israel that expansion of her borders by force "will not be tolerated."

The Senator reviewed what he termed the mistakes the United States has made in the Middle East, including overemphasis on "the dangers of Soviet military intervention," and tendencies to "confuse nationalism with communism." He said that "greater recognition of the dignity of newly independent nations and a small dose of humility would be deeply appreciated by most new nations."